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ABSTRACT

A study was conducted of the entry-level basic skills performance of all credit students enrolled at Miami-Dade Community College (M-DCC) in fall 1989. The study examined demographic data and scores on the Comparative Guidance and Placement (CGP) Program Test, American College Testing (ACT) program exam, Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT), Florida Multiple Assessment Programs and Services Test (FL-MAPS), and English Placement Test (EPT). Findings included the following: (1) of the 49,145 students enrolled in fall 1989, 42,970 (87%) had written at least one subtest of the SAT, ACT, FL-MAPS, or CGP; (2) of the 35,673 students who had written all three subtests of one these tests, 60% did not pass at least one subtest; (3) 5,892 (96%) of the 6,124 students who wrote the EPT failed it and were required to begin English-as-a-Second-Language courses; (4) 65% (N=27,156) of the entire cohort were required to enroll in courses below the college level; (5) of students who had written either the CGP, ACT, SAT, or FL-MAPS, 68% passed the reading subtest, 70% passed the writing subtest, and 59% passed the mathematics subtest; (6) on the reading and writing subtests, White non-Hispanics had the highest pass rates, followed by Hispanics and then Black non-Hispanics, while on the mathematics subtest, White non-Hispanics and Hispanics both had 60% pass rates and Blacks a 51% pass rate; and (7) the majority of students taking the EPT exam were Hispanic. (GFW)

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Research Report No. 90-15R

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Miami-Dade Community College
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OFFICE OF INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH

John Losak, Dean

Entry-Level Testing Results for All Credit Students Enrolled at Miami-Dade Community College During Fall Term, 1989

Introduction

Miami-Dade Community College routinely reports the results of its basic skills assessment program. However, these reports typically examine the performance of a particular group of students. For example, reports have been produced which illustrate the performance of first-time-in-college students (Einspruch, R.R. No. 90-02R), students who recently graduated from high school (Belcher, R.R. No. 90-04R), and students who graduated in the upper part of their high school class (Vorp, R.R. No. 89-24R).

This research report provides data on entry-level basic skills performance for all students enrolled during the Fall Term, 1989. It is well established that academically underprepared students have a difficult time succeeding in college (see for example various reports by Losak, Morris, and Belcher, annotated by Einspruch in Research Report No. 89-10R). Therefore, one might expect that most students who are currently enrolled are students who entered academically prepared. The present data will help the reader to gain perspective on the magnitude of Miami-Dade's continuing involvement with underprepared students.

Method

Demographic information for all Fall Term, 1989 credit students enrolled at M-DCC was obtained from the demographic research file (IRS40). Test scores for these students were obtained from the Test Master Record (TMR), and pass/fail determinations were made using cutscores specified in the current M-DCC Placement Criteria document. In keeping with the Placement Criteria, if the student wrote more than one entry-level test, the highest score on any given test was the one considered for that subtest. In other words, students could have passed reading based on one test and

writing based on another test. Tables were produced using the information obtained from these files.

Highlights

°Of the 49,145 students enrolled during the Fall Term, 1989, 42,970 (87%) had written at least one subtest of an entry-level test (either CGP, SAT, ACT, FL-MAPS, or EPT).

°A total of 35,673 students wrote all three subtests of an entry-level test (CGP, SAT, ACT, or FL-MAPS). The following analyses are based on this group. Of these 35,673, 21,264 (60%) did not pass at least one subtest, and were required to enroll in college preparatory coursework. An additional 5,892 students failed the EPT (96% of the 6,124 EPT writers) and were required to begin in English as a second language courses.

°In total, of the 41,797 students who had written a complete entry-level test, 27,156 (65%) were required to enroll in courses below the college level.

Results

Table 1 details the number of students who had written any entry-level test (CGP, ACT, SAT, FL-MAPS or EPT). College-wide, 42,970 (87%) of the 49,145 enrollees had written an entry-level test. This figure was closely paralleled on North, South, and Wolfson Campuses. However, only 72% of the students enrolled on Medical Center Campus had written an entry-level test.

There was a difference between the ethnic distributions of those who had and had not written an entry-level test. Of those who wrote an entry-level test, 23% were White non-Hispanic, 17% were Black non-Hispanic, and 58% were Hispanic. Of those who did not write an entry-level test, 46% were White non-Hispanic, 17% were Black non-Hispanic, and 35% were Hispanic. This pattern was seen on each of the campuses.

Table 2 shows the entry-level test performance in the areas of reading, writing, and mathematics. College-wide, of those students who had written either the CGP, ACT, SAT, or FL-MAPS, 68% passed the reading subtest, 70% passed the writing subtest, and 59% passed the mathematics subtest. On the reading and writing subtests, White non-Hispanics had the highest pass rates, followed by Hispanics and then Black non-Hispanics. These patterns were seen on all campuses, with the exception of Hispanics having a two percentage point higher pass rate on the mathematics subtest on South Campus, and a six percentage point higher pass rate on Medical Center Campus.

Table 3 illustrates the number and percentage passing zero, one, two or three subtests. It is clear from this table that of the 35,673 students who had written the CGP, SAT, ACT, of FL-MAPS, 21,264 (60%) were required to take at least one college preparatory course. On North Campus, 65% of the currently enrolled students began in need of college preparatory work, while the percentage was 53% on South Campus, 68% on Wolfson Campus, and 66% on Medical Center Campus. In addition, Table 4 illustrates student performance on the English Placement Test (EPT). As may be seen from this table, 96% of the 6,124 students who had written the EPT failed the exam. This resulted in 5,892 students who were required to begin their work in ESL (or ENS) courses. It is also clear that the majority of EPT writers were of Hispanic background, although on North and Medical Center Campuses about twenty percent of the test-takers were of Black non-Hispanic background (primarily of Haitian origin; see Vorp, R.R. No. 88-27).

Conclusion

Earlier research reports have described the entry-level test performance of particular groups of students at M-DCC, but they have not given readers an idea of the performance of the entire group of students attending the College. It is clear from the tables in this report that a large percentage of students who are currently enrolled tested into college preparatory course work at entry.

Table 1

Number and Percentage of Fall 1989 Enrollees
With at Least one Entry-Level Test Score of Any Kind*
by Campus and Ethnic Group

Ethnic Group	Wrote Entry-Level Test		Did Not Write Entry-Level Test		Total
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
North Campus					
White Non-Hispanic	2,161	18	887	44	3,048
Black Non-Hispanic	3,912	33	595	29	4,507
Hispanic	5,594	47	510	25	6,104
Other	299	2	38	2	337
Total	11,966	100	2,030	100	13,996
South Campus					
White Non-Hispanic	5,849	31	1,370	56	7,219
Black Non-Hispanic	1,235	6	188	8	1,423
Hispanic	11,460	60	800	33	12,260
Other	518	3	73	3	591
Total	19,062	100	2,431	100	21,493
Wolfson Campus					
White Non-Hispanic	1,050	12	583	34	1,633
Black Non-Hispanic	941	11	247	15	1,188
Hispanic	6,507	76	844	50	7,351
Other	78	1	23	1	101
Total	8,576	100	1,697	100	10,273
Medical Center Campus					
White Non-Hispanic	602	25	431	45	1,033
Black Non-Hispanic	828	34	179	19	1,007
Hispanic	934	39	310	32	1,244
Other	57	2	42	4	99
Total	2,421	100	962	100	3,383
College-Wide					
White Non-Hispanic	9,662	23	3,271	46	12,933
Black Non-Hispanic	6,916	17	1,209	17	8,125
Hispanic	24,495	58	2,464	35	26,959
Other	952	2	176	2	1,128
Total	42,025	100	7,120	100	49,145

*CGP, ACT, SAT, EPT, FL-MAPS, or CPT.

Table 2

Number and Percentage of All Fall 1989 Enrollees
Passing Reading, Writing, or Mathematics Entry-Level Subtests
By Campus and Ethnic Group

Ethnic Group	Reading				Writing				Mathematics			
	Number Passed	Number Tested	Pass Rate for Ethnic Group	Percent of Passers by Ethnic Group	Number Passed	Number Tested	Pass Rate for Ethnic Group	Percent of Passers by Ethnic Group	Number Passed	Number Tested	Pass Rate for Ethnic Group	Percent of Passers by Ethnic Group
North Campus												
White Non-Hispanic	1,565	2,005	78	24	1,528	2,007	76	23	1,213	1,991	61	20
Black Non-Hispanic	1,784	3,739	48	27	1,990	3,740	53	29	1,900	3,682	52	31
Hispanic	3,092	4,772	65	47	3,156	4,780	66	46	2,760	4,712	59	45
Other	128	255	50	2	138	256	54	2	203	254	80	4
Total	6,569	10,771	61	100	6,312	10,783	63	100	6,076	10,639	57	100
South Campus												
White Non-Hispanic	4,745	5,518	86	35	4,682	5,523	85	34	3,382	5,546	61	31
Black Non-Hispanic	776	1,168	66	6	827	1,166	71	6	606	1,173	52	6
Hispanic	7,711	10,373	74	57	7,827	10,375	75	57	6,517	10,265	63	60
Other	307	459	67	2	305	458	67	3	352	469	75	3
Total	13,539	17,518	77	100	13,641	17,522	78	100	10,857	17,453	62	100
Wolfson Campus												
White Non-Hispanic	673	874	77	19	699	876	80	19	514	879	58	15
Black Non-Hispanic	377	834	45	11	443	840	53	11	418	838	50	12
Hispanic	2,430	4,470	54	69	2,676	4,487	60	69	2,386	4,344	55	71
Other	34	66	52	1	35	66	53	1	51	65	78	2
Total	3,514	6,244	56	100	3,853	6,269	61	100	3,369	6,126	55	100
Medical Center Campus												
White Non-Hispanic	459	561	82	33	451	564	80	31	306	554	55	25
Black Non-Hispanic	379	791	48	27	430	793	54	29	378	770	49	31
Hispanic	526	864	61	39	558	865	65	38	513	836	61	42
Other	24	50	48	1	29	50	58	2	29	50	58	2
Total	1,388	2,266	61	100	1,468	2,272	65	100	1,226	2,210	55	100
College-Wide												
White Non-Hispanic	7,442	8,958	83	30	7,360	8,970	82	29	5,415	8,970	60	25
Black Non-Hispanic	3,316	6,532	51	13	3,690	6,539	56	14	3,302	6,463	51	15
Hispanic	13,759	20,479	67	55	14,217	20,507	69	55	12,176	20,157	60	57
Other	493	830	59	2	507	830	61	2	635	838	76	3
Total	25,010	36,799	68	100	25,774	36,846	70	100	21,528	36,428	59	100

*Based upon the highest score obtained on either the CGP, SAT, ACT, FL-MAPS, or CPT.

Table 3

Number and Percentage of Fall 1989 Enrollees
Passing Zero - Three Entry-Level Subtests
By Campus and Ethnic Group*

Ethnic Group	Total Tested	Did Not Pass Any Subtest			Passed One Subtest			Passed Two Subtests			Passed Three Subtests		
		Number	Percent of Ethnic Group in Category	Percent of Category by Ethnic Group	Number	Percent of Ethnic Group in Category	Percent of Category by Ethnic Group	Number	Percent of Ethnic Group in Category	Percent of Category by Ethnic Group	Number	Percent of Ethnic Group in Category	Percent of Category by Ethnic Group
North Campus													
White Non-Hispanic	1,965	157	8	9	276	14	13	649	33	22	883	45	24
Black Non-Hispanic	3,646	893	24	51	896	25	42	920	25	31	937	26	25
Hispanic	4,675	684	15	39	900	19	42	1,314	28	45	1,777	38	48
Other	253	29	11	1	76	30	3	53	21	2	95	38	3
Total	10,539	1,763	17	100	2,148	20	100	2,936	28	100	3,692	35	100
South Campus													
White Non-Hispanic	5,391	250	5	19	546	10	23	1,814	33	34	2,781	52	34
Black Non-Hispanic	1,137	157	14	12	212	19	9	356	31	7	412	36	5
Hispanic	10,086	905	9	67	1,480	15	64	3,008	30	57	4,693	46	58
Other	452	38	8	2	88	20	4	118	26	2	208	46	3
Total	17,066	1,350	8	100	2,326	14	100	5,296	31	100	8,094	47	100
Wolfson Campus													
White Non-Hispanic	833	60	7	5	120	15	10	269	32	16	384	46	20
Black Non-Hispanic	805	207	26	19	193	24	16	222	27	13	183	23	10
Hispanic	4,213	817	19	75	915	22	73	1,175	28	70	1,306	31	69
Other	64	9	14	1	15	23	1	16	25	1	24	38	1
Total	5,915	1,093	18	100	1,243	21	100	1,682	29	100	1,897	32	100
Medical Center Campus													
White Non-Hispanic	534	32	6	9	63	12	16	213	40	32	226	42	31
Black Non-Hispanic	749	194	26	53	174	23	44	192	26	29	189	25	26
Hispanic	823	130	16	36	147	18	37	249	30	37	297	36	41
Other	47	8	16	2	12	26	3	13	28	2	14	30	2
Total	2,153	364	17	100	396	18	100	667	31	100	726	34	100
College-Wide													
White Non-Hispanic	8,723	499	5	11	1,005	12	17	2,945	34	29	4,274	49	30
Black Non-Hispanic	6,337	1,451	23	32	1,475	23	24	1,690	27	16	1,721	27	12
Hispanic	19,797	2,536	13	55	3,442	17	56	5,746	29	54	8,073	41	56
Other	816	84	10	2	191	23	3	200	25	1	341	42	2
Total	35,673	4,570	13	100	6,113	17	100	10,581	30	100	14,409	40	100

*Based upon students writing all three parts of the CGP, SAT, ACT, FL-MAPS, or CPT; Does not include those who wrote EPT.

Table 4

Number and Percentage of Fall 1989 Enrollees
Writing the English Placement Test
by Campus and Ethnic Group

Ethnic Group	Number Tested	English Placement Test			
		Failed		Passed	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
North Campus					
White Non-Hispanic	115	107	7	8	17
Black Non-Hispanic	304	291	19	13	28
Hispanic	1,038	1,016	68	22	47
Other	91	87	6	4	8
Total	1,548	1,501	100	47	100
South Campus					
White Non-Hispanic	109	93	6	16	17
Black Non-Hispanic	36	30	2	6	6
Hispanic	1,488	1,419	87	69	72
Other	94	89	5	5	5
Total	1,727	1,631	100	96	100
Wolfson Campus					
White Non-Hispanic	133	119	4	14	17
Black Non-Hispanic	154	149	6	5	6
Hispanic	2,414	2,353	89	61	74
Other	24	22	1	2	3
Total	2,725	2,643	100	82	100
Medical Center Campus					
White Non-Hispanic	4	4	3	-	-
Black Non-Hispanic	26	23	20	3	43
Hispanic	88	85	73	3	43
Other	6	5	4	1	14
Total	124	117	100	7	100
College-Wide					
White Non-Hispanic	361	323	6	38	16
Black Non-Hispanic	520	493	8	27	12
Hispanic	5,028	4,873	83	155	67
Other	215	203	3	12	5
Total	6,124	5,892	100	232	100

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